**5 Schools To Be Contacted**

1. **Cedar Falls Community School District (Cedar Falls, Iowa) – 5121 –**

* The school district does not make products using peanuts or peanut butter. http://www.cedar-falls.k12.ia.us/parents/nutrition-services/special-diet-information
* Some manufacturers process product in an unsafe facility. Nutrition Department to be made aware of a child’s allergy to avoid serving these items to an allergic child.
* Allergy Sensitive Environment Guidelines <http://www.cedar-falls.k12.ia.us/health-safety/food-allergies>

1. **Neshaminy School District (NE of Philadelphia, PA) – 9298 No PB in cafeteria.**

* Does not offer Peanut Butter in the "PB&J", instead makes these sandwiches with sunflower butter
* Other students can still bring sandwiches from home that may contain peanut butter <http://www.neshaminy.org/Page/21002>

1. **Hellgate Elementary, Frenchtown**

* Confusing letter to parents <http://www.hellgate.k12.mt.us/cms/lib/MT15000294/centricity/domain/17/Nut_Free.pdf>
* Responded that my email request was ‘troubling’ to him. Declined to distribute my email

1. **Arrowhead Elementary (Billings, MT)**
2. **Portland, OR**

* Beverly Cleary Elementary School family offered to help with change
* Family also encourages school to be forward thinking and put preventions at the forefront before tragedy strikes
* Says inconvenience pales next to potential death of child
* Says if you’ve ever experienced and watched anyone take their last breath, or have trouble breathing, it’s something you never, ever, ever want to deal with again
* One board member has been pushing for policy change for 4 months but other board members refuse
* One board co-chair comfortable with protocols PPS has already put in place <http://www.katu.com/news/education/Portland-parent-pushing-for-nut-free-school-Youre-dealing-with-a-childs-life-241578681.html>

**EAST COAST**

**Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools**

* District’s wellness committee requests no nuts on school grounds including before and after school programs
* Some students can suffer fatal reactions to those foods including residue on surfaces or on other students
* Committee says parents of allergic children should continue to take precautions/can’t guarantee people will abide by the policy
* Spread the word through open house, messages sent home and FAQ sheet
* Continue to increase awareness of issue with education
* October 2013 - delayed asking students and staff to refrain from bringing peanuts, tree nuts and related products onto school grounds to give families additional time to make adjustments

[**http://www.amherstbulletin.com/home/8845787-95/amherst-delays-restriction-on-nuts-in-schools-to-oct-28**](http://www.amherstbulletin.com/home/8845787-95/amherst-delays-restriction-on-nuts-in-schools-to-oct-28)

* Superintendent says district has taken steps to the safest possible learning environment for all students including:
  + Eliminating peanuts/nuts form food service program 3 years ago
  + Asking students not to eat on bus
* Had families that would not comply unless it was standard held for all students and faculty
* Also concerned about students complying with hand washing, etc
* Also concerned about eating in more than one area
* She decided to ask all families and staff to refrain from bringing peanuts/nuts into schools
* Support from *Life Threatening Allergy Guidelines*
* Continue to follow appropriate guidelines as well and continue education
* Doesn’t want to send a message that would guarantee safety [**http://onlyintherepublicofamherst.blogspot.com/2013/12/nuts-ban-in-amherst-schools.html**](http://onlyintherepublicofamherst.blogspot.com/2013/12/nuts-ban-in-amherst-schools.html)

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/192613855/ARPS-Wellness-Comm-on-Nuts>

**Willmington Public Schools DE –**

* ***2010*** study Journal of Pediatrics food allergies increased 18% from 1997-2007 and reactions to foods have become the most common cause of anaphylaxis in community health settings
* ***(According to a study released in 2013 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergies among children increased approximately 50% between 1997 and 2011.)***
* Parents raised concerns with School Committee in 2013 seeking greater awareness
* Committee members learned about LTAs (Life-threatening food allergies)
* Committee became more aware of bullying targets
* Feb 2014 district implemented multiple policy and curriculum changes including:
* Online program to educate all parents about LTSa
* Extending peanut-safe lunches in k-5
* Encouraging hand washing
* Anti-bullying programs
* Peanut free classrooms (as needed)
* Food free celebrations
* Middle and high school unchanged
* False sense of security disputed by :

Avoiding allergens is the only way to keep kids safe. False sense of security comes into play when there is no backup plan.

* Office of Nutrition Health and Safety Programs for the Dept of Elementary and Secondary Ed finds consistency with policies other district have established
* Worked with appropriate admins (nurse and food service director), classroom teachers, principals, and appropriate staff within district. <http://homenewshere.com/wilmington_town_crier/news/article_c2906c28-900c-11e3-a5ba-001a4bcf887a.html>

**Frontier Regional and Union 38 School District in Franklin County, MA**

* All Frontier Regional and Union 38 Schools do not sell or serve pb&j or foods that contain nuts or their products. <http://www.ses.sunderland.ma.us/staff/health/foodallergyreminder.pdf>
* 2013 Frontier Regional (grades 7 through 12) established a nut ban at least eight years ago
* Conway grammar school also is nut-free
* Deerfield grammar school has peanut-free tables
* Springfield public schools do not serve any peanut products but there are no restrictions preventing students from bringing such foods from home.
* Martha Barrett, superintendent of the Frontier Regional and Union 38 School districts in Franklin County, has an allergy management policy that allows each school to enact and annually review its own policy based on its student population.
* Superintendent of the Frontier Regional and Union 38 School districts said she expected much more push-back from students and parents when the ban went into place several years ago at Frontier.

***“The thing that impressed me is that our students looked out for each other. They’d say: no you can’t bring a PB&J to this school. And now it’s become a habit, although we have to remind new students and new parents every year,” Barrett said. “But we have kids with airborne, ingestion and contact allergies, and if we can prevent something terrible happening to one of them, why wouldn’t we?” 2013*** <http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2013/10/kids_too_clean_driving_food_al.html>

**Hager Elementary in Boyd County k-6, 332 students KY (Ashland Independent**

**School District)**

* 2004 - Ban all peanut products from school – cafeteria, snack machines, packed lunches
* Aggregation from vegetarians (note: vegetarian diet is likely a choice)
* Ashland Independent Superintendent Phil Eason said "When you compare putting some people at an inconvenience to threatening the life of another, there's no contest," .
* Eason and school board member Patricia Hall said the decision to ban these products were made after consulting several area pediatricians and an allergy specialist. According to Eason, the medical professionals said that without a complete school ban, there would be at least one child who could not attend because of the severity of a peanut allergy.
* Beth Miller, director of asthma, allergy and sinus clinics at the University of Kentucky, said a severe peanut allergy needs to be taken seriously because it can be fatal.
* She said some people are so sensitive, they can have a reaction after touching another person who has eaten peanuts. Others feel sick after they eat or, in rare cases, breathe the vapor of a peanut product.

<http://www.peanutallergy.com/boards/parents-protest-school-peanut-ban-in-kentucky>

**Russell Independent school district KY**

* Officials in the Russell Independent school district, which adjoins Hager Elementary, said they have had only one complaint since their ban was implemented several years ago.

"I don't know why there's a problem in Ashland," said Dennis Chambers, food-services director for the district. "I don't know what could be more important than trying to keep a child safe."

<http://www.peanutallergy.com/boards/parents-protest-school-peanut-ban-in-kentucky>

Again – 2004 information. No information on Ashland Independent School district.

**All CA schools mentioned here, sited Natalie Giorgi’s death as a reminder and reviewed practices:**

**San Mateo, CA**

* Eliminated PB 2010
* Asked parent via email to avoid sending nuts <http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_23836441/bay-area-school-menus-phasing-ou-peanut-products>

**San Jose Unified School District –CA**

* 8 “no-peanut” schools – can’t say peanut free – no control over what parents send from home
* Change for hyper-allergic student who can’t be within breathing distance of a peanut <http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_23836441/bay-area-school-menus-phasing-ou-peanut-products>

**Oakland and Mount Diablo Unified District don’t serve peanuts in elementary schools** <http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_23836441/bay-area-school-menus-phasing-ou-peanut-products>

**Fremont Unified – CA**

* No district served PB and examines labels
* James Leitch Elementary School newsletter asks parents to not send any foods that have any nuts or nut products to school due to severe allergies. States that reactions can occur by eating , touching them or their oils, or breathing their fumes. 2014-2015 school year <http://www.fremont.k12.ca.us/cms/lib04/CA01000848/Centricity/Domain/1087/Newsletter%200814.pdf>

**Cupertino Union k-8 – CA**

* No PB served in its 25 schools but does provide PB for field trips
* Covers parts of:
  + San Jose
  + Sunnyvale
  + Saratoga
  + Santa Clara
  + Los Altos

<http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_23836441/bay-area-school-menus-phasing-ou-peanut-products>

**Elk Grove school district/Joseph Sims Elementary School/John Ehrhardt Wlwmentary School –CA**

* Does not serve PB
* Response to Natalie Giorgo’s death

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/08/01/5613807/ell-grove-school-district-to-ban.html>

**Sacramento City Unified School District – CA**

* Peanut avoidance policy for so long, spokesperson can’t remember when it started <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/08/01/5613807/ell-grove-school-district-to-ban.html>

**Twin Rivers Unified School District – CA**

* Doesn’t serve PB but can’t control what parents send <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/08/01/5613807/ell-grove-school-district-to-ban.html>

**Eureka Union School District – CA**

* Switching to new food vendor which will serve meals free of TN/PN
* Sunflower seed switch

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/08/01/5613807/ell-grove-school-district-to-ban.html>

**MIDWEST**

**Lake Orion Community Schools - MI k-12**

* At various times, schools in Lake Orion may become "Peanut Free" buildings. This is a result of the specific health needs of one of our students. In a peanut free building, we ask that all families avoid bringing snacks or lunches to school that contain peanuts or peanut products. In these schools, we have also removed these food products from our lunch menus.

<http://www.lakeorion.k12.mi.us/content_page2.aspx?cid=154>

**Mokena District 159 (1,750 students) – Illinois SW Chicago NOV 2013**

* Trail mix was opened in class and airborne dust caused girl to react and go to ER
* within seconds throat began to close
* failed plan
* small sacrifice - do it before someone dies
* tough to prevent accidental exposure <http://southtownstar.suntimes.com/news/23778297-418/couple-seek-peanut-free-schools-in-sd-159.html#.VAoZeBbgVEI>
* parent letter with approved snack list <http://www.mokena159.org/MES/Newsletters/2014/September.pdf>

**Freedom Area School Districts - WI– 1620 students**

* Letter to parents states that it is time for us to support a nut/peanut free environment
* Asks parents not to send nuts or their products to school beginning 2011
* Also asks for no baked goods for school treats/birthdays
* Asks parents to find another way to recognize child’s birthday
* Consulted NSBA <http://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/cms_files/resources/peanut%20free.pdf>

**LAWSUITS/LEGAL ISSUES**

**Detroit Livonia Public Schools, MI – 15,617 students – 28 schools Lawsuit against school**

* Student identified and bullied by students and teachers
* School claims to be doing all they can
* <http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2013/08/peanut_allergy_at_center_of_fe.html>

2013 Iowa court rules peanut allergy is a disability. <http://www.kwwl.com/story/20548623/2013/01/09/iowa-court-rules>

LANSING -- A Michigan Court of Appeals panel [upheld a decision](http://publicdocs.courts.mi.gov:81/OPINIONS/FINAL/COA/20130730_C306979_46_306979.OPN.PDF) Tuesday 2013 dismissing a lawsuit over a Romeo-area elementary school's policy creating a nut-free school.

The unpublished opinion addresses a lawsuit filed by the parent of a student at [Hevel Elementary (448 students) School](http://www.romeo.k12.mi.us/pages/50943/hevel-elementary) challenging the decision of Romeo Community Schools to make the elementary school a nut-free zone because of a student with life-threatening nut allergies. 2010 decision upheld in 2013.

Plantiff statement: "Due to [the] conflicting needs of my own child, I will not be cooperating nor participating in the School’s 504 plan to another student. My child and I are not subject to, nor bound by, the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act requiring the School to provide an accommodation to another student and we decline to accept such obligations.

"To meet my child’s needs, I will provide my child with the proper nutrition in her school lunch as I, in my sole discretion, deem appropriate. The School is not permitted to take any disciplinary action - including, but not limited to, taking away her food or removing her to a different location. Any such action against my child will be discriminatory, harassment and an act of retaliation in violation of her rights under the Rehabilitation Act and infringes on our individual rights, including our right against despotic control and our right to freedom of choice," the decision quotes Liebau as saying.

"Plaintiff simply has not shown that defendants’ implementation of the school-wide ban was arbitrary and therefore irrational. Accordingly, the trial court did not err by ruling that the Equal Protection Clause does not provide a basis for legal relief and, therefore, that any amendment to allege such a claim would be futile," the court stated in the opinion.

<http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2013/07/nut-free_elementary_school_dec.html>